



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

BBRRCT Annual Report to the WG

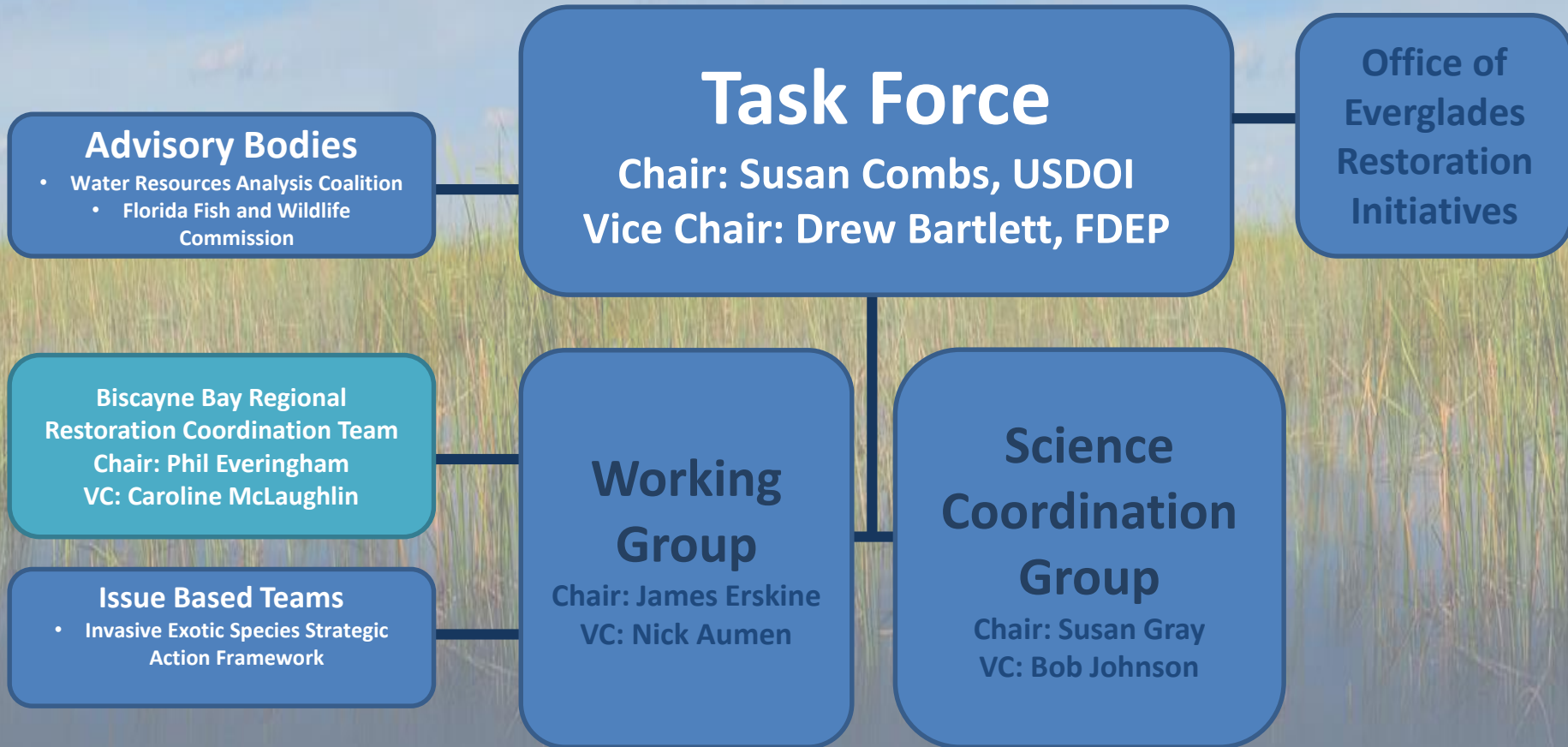
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EVERGLADESRESTORATION.GOV

Task Force Organization



Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Team

(excerpted from BBRRCT Charter)

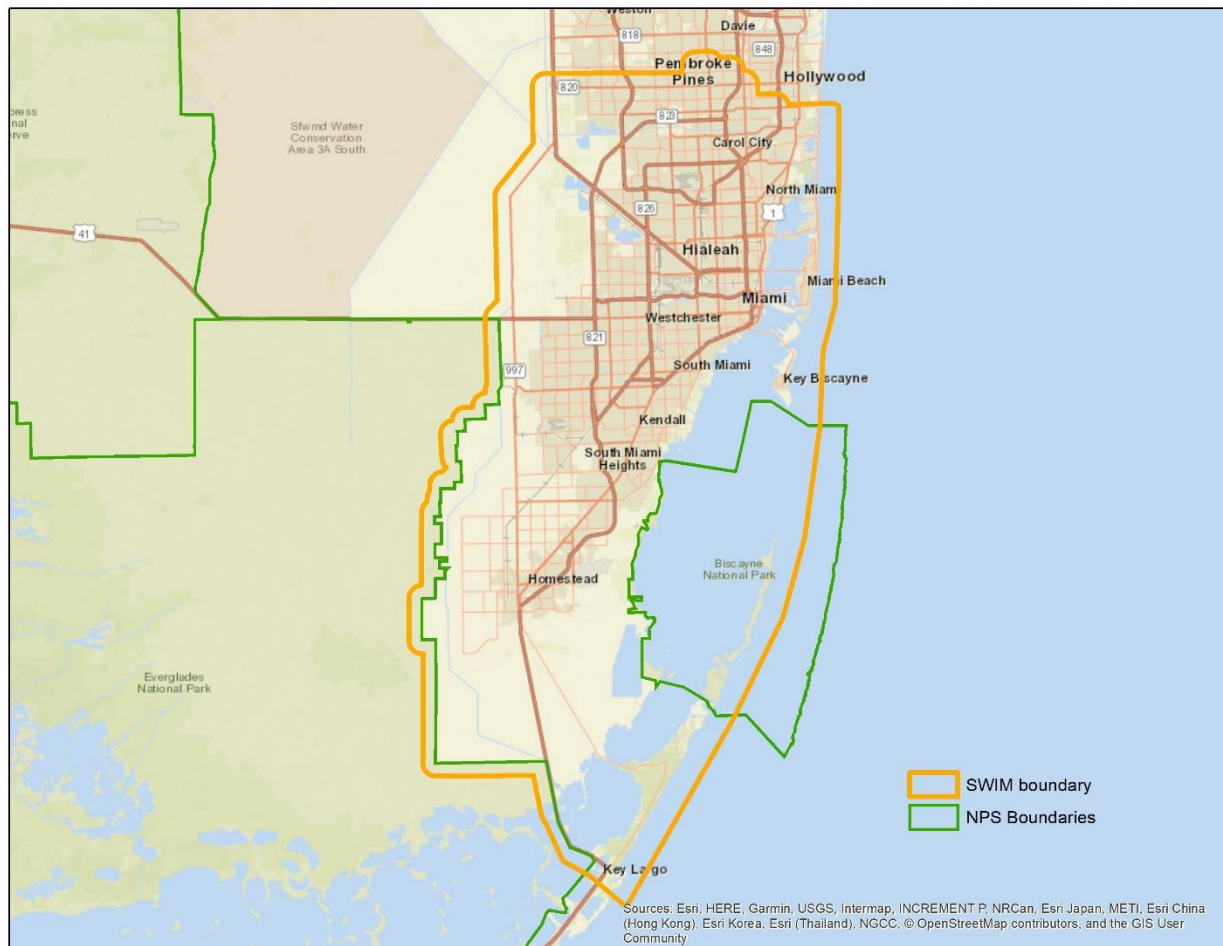
PURPOSE: Using the final report of the BBPI as a guide, the Team will integrate and coordinate restoration, enhancement, and preservation projects, plans and activities, and will work toward maintaining a functioning ecosystem while promoting a sustainable region.

Specifically, the purpose of the Team is to:

- provide a forum for public involvement, outreach and interagency coordination and communication
- identify goals and performance measures related to key issues and to assess the achievement of those goals
- identify funding requirements
- review elements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) that affect Biscayne Bay
- The Team will serve as the principal advisory body to the Working Group for issues in this region.

Specific Guidance:

The Team should focus on the region as defined by the watershed boundaries of Biscayne Bay, Stretching from Dumfoundling Bay south to U.S. Highway 1. This boundary corresponds with the Surface Water Improvement Boundary (SWIM) for Biscayne Bay (excerpted from BBRRCT Charter)



Specific Guidance:

(excerpted from BBRRCT Charter)

- The initial objective of the Team is to develop a **Biscayne Bay Action Plan** that will guide efforts and prioritize activities to balance appropriate economic use with improved public access, increased habitat restoration, and environmental protection. The Team shall also submit an annual progress report to the Working Group beginning December 2001.

Vision Statement

(excerpted from BBRRCT Action Plan)

- Biscayne Bay is ecologically restored. It is readily accessible to and appreciated by all members of our diverse community. It supports a variety of uses and economic activities that are environmentally sustainable. Biscayne Bay is managed to promote coordination and to resolve conflicts among competing objectives with sufficient resources to achieve this vision.

Priorities Identified by Team from the Action Plan

8 Priority areas

- Water quality of Biscayne Bay
- Fresh water needs of the bay and its coastal wetlands
- Access to the bay
- Restore/protect the habitat
- Sustainable coastal development & community engagement
- Sea level rise & coastal resiliency
- Marine debris
- Enforcement

5 Focus Areas

Focus Areas", and consists of those areas where it would seem we members of the BBRRCT can have a real impact without compromising our prime role as advisors to the Working Group.

These Focus Areas are as follows:

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase I coordination
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase II planning
- Agency coordination
- Bay stakeholders needs and interests
- Finding additional fresh water for Biscayne Bay

March 2014 Annual Report to WG

ALGAL BLOOMS ON BISCAYNE BAY

Three significant events, unprecedented in their scale or duration, have occurred in Biscayne Bay over the past decade, and may indicate a diminished ability by the Bay to handle such inputs. These events were:

A phytoplankton bloom that started in 2005 in Barnes and Card Sounds and Manatee Bay (located in the southern end of Biscayne Bay) which persisted for (3) years. This event caused the loss of sea grass and benthic organisms within the region of the bloom.

A green macro-algal bloom initiated in 2004 and continues (though diminished) today. The impacted area runs along the western shore south of Rickenbacker Causeway to south of Coral Gables and out to mid-Bay. This bloom has impacted over 7,500 acres of the bay bottom, including loss of seagrass and benthic organisms.

A phytoplankton bloom occurred in the summer of 2013 across the northern region of the Bay.

These events may indicate that Biscayne Bay is showing a decreased capacity to withstand unusual events and inputs, whether natural or human related.

Continued monitoring is needed.

2018 Annual Report

Possible topics

- Expediting BBCW phase 2 planning since it relates to slowing and halting continued system decline is critical to the team.
- Completion of BBCW Phase 1
- Support and/or expand needed research and priorities (including priority development) for the Algal blooms, Seagrass dieoff and other ecological damages to determine causative factors for use in the development of mitigation plans
- Support and expand continue systemwide epifaunal monitoring.
- Continued funding of HFA's who do work in the communities impacting and using the Bay.
- Support initiatives to help updated and define economic value of the Bay, including the value of seagrass and coral reefs

QUESTIONS?

